

REMARKS

In the Office Action of June 12, 2006 the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-7 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Glascott (6,869,433). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner stated that Glascott discloses a ligament fixation implant, with the ligament being item 34. On the contrary, Glascott element 34 is an elongated rod (column 2, lines 27, 28, 30). Rod 34 is intended to transfer compressive force from internal nut 34, through pressure disc 28 and to head convex portion 18 of screw 12 in order to compress the head 18 in a concave receiver portion 24 (column 2, lines 29-34). Rod 34 must therefore, necessarily, be a solid non-compressible material - not a ligament. Furthermore, element 32 is not a plurality of elongated members fixedly connected to a plurality of rings 36. Element 36 is a nut which turns relative to the "legs" of element 32, unlike the claimed invention which requires a plurality of rings to be affixed to each of the elongated members. Similarly, element 28 is a disc that is movable relative to "legs" 32. Element 38 is not a projection as stated by the Examiner. It is a circular nut (column 2, line 29) threadably engaged with U-shaped portion 32.

Applicants also respectfully submit the claims as currently amended distinguish the invention claimed in dependent claims 3 through 7 from the cited prior art.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowance of claim 10 and allowability of claims 8 and 9 if presented in independent form. However, in view of the foregoing amendment, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all

rejected claims, including claims 8 and 9. Applicants submit that the amendment of claim 1 makes claims 8 and 9 allowable without any amendment to claims 8 and 9.